

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00373 100849Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /030 W

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R 091604Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6099

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, MT, ETRD

SUBJECT: REPORTED BAN ON IMPORT OF BEER AND WINE

REF: VALLETTA A-14, MARCH 20, 1975 (SUBJECT: MALTA TIGHTENS
IMPORT CONTROLS); STATE 078369

1. THE GOM MINISTRY OF TRADE IS AUGMENTING ALMOST DAILY
THE LIST OF ITEMS SUBJECT TO IMPORT LICENSE CONTROL TO IMPLEMENT
RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GOM POLICY TO IMPROVE MALTA'S NEGATIVE
TRADE BALANCE BY REDUCING NON-ESSENTIAL IMPORTS. BEER HAS LONG
BEEN ON THE IMPORT LICENSE LIST, AND WINE WAS ADDED MARCH 1, 1975,
AS REPORTED IN VALLETTA'S A-14.

2. INCLUSION AS CONTROLLED ITEM IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH IMPORT
PROHIBITION; THERE ARE VARIOUS LICENSING CATEGORIES RANGING FROM
FREELY IMPORTED TO INDEFINITELY PROHIBITED. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO
OBTAIN FROM MINISTRY OF TRADE CURRENT CATEGORY BREAKDOWN OF
ALL IMPORTS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.
ON APRIL 8, GOM DIRECTOR OF TRADE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT DUE
CONTINUING CHANGES GOM STILL HAS NO LIST SHOWING CURRENT
STATUS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND DOES NOT PLAN TO PREPARE ONE
IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE ADDED THAT APPLICATIONS TO
IMPORT VARIOUS ITEMS, INCLUDING WINE, ARE NOT BEING REJECTED,
BUT NEITHER ARE THEY BEING PROCESSED, THEY ARE BEING HELD
"PENDING".

3. COMMENT: GOM IS AT THIS STAGE EFFECTIVELY PROHIBITING
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SELECTED IMPORTS THROUGH THE LICENSING PROCEDURE, BUT STOPPING

SHORT OF OFFICIAL IMPORT DENIAL ACTION. GOM WILL DOUBTLESS
CONTINUE THIS POLICY UNLESS FORCED BY PRESSURES FROM OTHER
GOVERNMENTS TO DESIST. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT FRENCH
AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS HERE HAVE ALREADY COMPLAINED TO
GOM AND FURTHER ACTION MAY BE FORTHCOMING FROM EC ON THIS
SUBJECT. SMITH

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